

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer software-mediated method for annotating an image aspect of an electronic image, ~~wherein said software~~ comprising:
  - (A) ~~displaying causes~~ said electronic image containing said image aspect ~~to be displayed~~ to a user in a computer-generated interface;
  - (B) ~~permitting via causes~~ said interface ~~to permit~~ the user to access and query a searchable electronic database of annotations for an annotation term, and optionally permitting said user to add a desired annotation term to said database; and
  - (C) ~~associating causes~~ an annotation of said database ~~to become associated~~ with said image aspect, such that:
    - (1) the annotation, in response to a request by a user, is displayed positioned in the electronic image so as to permit a user to identify the associated image aspect in said displayed image; and
    - (2) the annotation association is stored in a second searchable electronic database so as to permit a user to retrieve said electronic image by querying said second electronic database for said annotation.
2. (Currently amended) The computer software-mediated method of claim 1, wherein said computer is a personal computer, and ~~said~~ wherein said displaying comprises displaying the displayed image ~~is displayed~~ on the screen of a computer.

3. (Currently amended) The computer software-mediated method of claim 1, wherein ~~in said step (C), said software permits said user to associate said annotation with said image aspect by~~ comprises permitting said user to select, drag and drop said annotation from said searchable electronic database to a user-selected location in the displayed electronic image.

4. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 1, wherein said electronic image contains more than one image aspect.

5. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 1, wherein said annotation is a textual annotation.

6. (Currently amended) The computer software-mediated method of claim 1, further comprising selecting ~~wherein said image is selected~~ from the group consisting of a photograph, a writing, and a drawing.

7. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 6, wherein said electronic image is a photograph.

8. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 7, wherein said image aspect to be annotated is a person depicted in said photograph.

9. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 8, wherein said annotation is a name of said person depicted in said photograph.

10. (Currently amended) A computer software-mediated method for retrieving an electronic image containing a desired image aspect, wherein said image is stored in a computer-managed database of images, and wherein said image aspect is associated with an annotation displayed in the electronic image, said association being stored in a searchable electronic database, said method comprising:

- (A) querying said searchable electronic database for image aspects that are associated with said annotation;
- (B) retrieving from said database an electronic image containing an image aspect associated with said annotation of step (A); and
- (C) displaying said retrieved electronic image and said annotation of step (A) to a user, in response to said user's request, such that the position of the annotation in the displayed electronic image permits a user to identify the associated image aspect in said displayed image.

11. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 10, wherein said computer is a personal computer, and said wherein in said step (C), said image is displayed on the screen of a computer.

12. (Currently amended) The computer software-mediated method of claim 10, wherein said software permits said user to associate said annotation with said image

aspect by permitting said user to select, drag and drop said annotation from the searchable electronic database to a user-selected location in the displayed electronic image.

13. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 10, wherein said electronic image contains more than one image aspect.

14. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 10, wherein said annotation is a textual annotation.

15. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 10, wherein said electronic image is selected from the group consisting of a photograph, a writing, and a drawing.

16. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 15, wherein said electronic image is a photograph.

17. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 16, wherein said desired image aspect is a person depicted in said photograph.

18. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 17, wherein said annotation is a name of said person depicted in said photograph.

19. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving collections of electronic images containing a desired image aspect or related family of image aspects, wherein said images are stored in a database of images, and wherein said image aspects are each associated with an annotation or related family of annotations displayed in the electronic image, each such said association being stored in a searchable electronic database, said method comprising:

- (A) querying said searchable electronic database for image aspects that are associated with said annotation or related family of annotations;
- (B) retrieving from said database electronic images containing an image aspect or related family of image aspects associated with said annotation or related family of annotations of step (A); and
- (C) displaying said retrieved electronic images and said annotation(s) of step (A) to a user, in response to said user's request, such that the position of the annotation in the displayed electronic image permits said user to identify the associated image aspect.

20. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 19, wherein said computer is a personal computer, and said wherein in said step (C), said image is displayed on the screen of a computer.

21. (Currently amended) The computer software-mediated method of claim 19, wherein said software permits said user to associate said annotation with said image aspect by permitting said user to select, drag and drop said annotation from the

searchable electronic database to a user-selected location in the displayed electronic image.

22. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 19, wherein said electronic image contains more than one image aspect.

23. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 19, wherein said annotation is a textual annotation.

24. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 19, wherein said electronic image is selected from the group consisting of a photograph, a writing, and a drawing.

25. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 24, wherein said electronic image is a photograph.

26. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 25, wherein said desired image aspect is a person depicted in said photograph.

27. (Original) The computer software-mediated method of claim 26, wherein said annotation is a name of said person depicted in said photograph.

28. (Currently amended) An electronic image stored in a database of images and displayed at the request of a user, said image containing a desired image aspect associated with an annotation displayed in the electronic image, wherein, ~~in response to a user's request~~, said image ~~can be displayed~~ is searchable to permit, in response to a user's request, display of said electronic image with said annotation on said electronic image such that the position of the annotation in the displayed electronic image permits said user to identify the associated image aspect.

29. (Currently amended) The electronic image of claim 28, wherein said annotation was associated with said image aspect by having been selected, dragged and dropped from a searchable electronic database into its position in the displayed electronic image.

30. (Original) The electronic image of claim 28, wherein said annotation is a textual annotation.

31. (Currently amended) A collection of electronic images each stored in a database of images and displayed at the request of a user, and each such image containing a desired image aspect or related family of image aspects, associated with an annotation or related family of annotations displayed in the electronic image, wherein ~~in response to a user's request~~, said images or collections thereof ~~can be displayed~~ are searchable to permit, in response to a user's request, display of said images or collections thereof with

said annotation displayed in ~~on~~ said electronic images such that the position of the annotations permits a user to identify the associated image aspect.

32. (Currently amended) The collection of electronic images of claim 31, wherein said annotation was associated with said desired image aspect or related family of image aspects by having been selected, dragged and dropped from a searchable electronic database into its respective location in the displayed electronic image.

33. (Original) The electronic image of claim 31, wherein said annotation is a textual annotation.

34. (Currently amended) A computer system specially adapted by software to store one or more electronic images or collections of such images, at the request of a user, and each containing a desired image aspect or related family of image aspects, associated with an annotation or related family of annotations displayed in the electronic image, wherein ~~in response to a user's request,~~ said images or collections thereof ~~can be displayed~~ are searchable to permit, in response to a user's request, display of said images or collections thereof with said annotation displayed in ~~on~~ said electronic images such that the position of the annotation permits a user to identify the associated image aspect.

35. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 34, wherein said annotation or related family of annotations was associated with said desired image aspect or related family of image aspects by having been selected, dragged and dropped from a



searchable electronic database into its respective location in the displayed electronic image.

36. (Currently amended) The ~~electronic image~~ computer system of claim 34, wherein said annotation is a textual annotation.